

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10

L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-20

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3745

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE: FOLLOW-UP TO 20TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

REFS:(A) USNATO 7752, (B) ISTANBUL 1792, (C) USNATO 3926,
(D) USNATO 4189, (E) STATE 129720, (F) USNATO 5053

1. WE EXPECT AC/137-D/673, WHICH PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY OF THE HISTORY AND ACHIEVEMENTS REPORTS DRAFTED BY THE ADVISORY PANELS OF THE VARIOUS NATO SCIENCE PROGRAMS, TO BE THE KEY DOCUMENT ON THE AGENDA (REF A) OF THE OCTOBER 2-3 SCIENCE COMMITTEE MEETING AT NATO HEADQUARTERS. THIS DOCUMENT (DATED AND SENT TO OES/CRAWFORD SEPTEMBER 6) WILL SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEM III, FOLLOW-UP TO THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION CONFERENCE.

2. IN AC/137-D/673, FOR EACH NATO SCIENCE PROGRAM, THERE IS A SECTION ENTITLED "THE FUTURE", WHICH MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTIVITIES OR DIRECTIONS. IN GENERAL, THE RECOMMENDATIONS FALL INTO SEVERAL BROAD CATEGORIES, THOSE CONCERNED WITH:

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(A) EXPLORING NEW SCIENTIFIC QUESTIONS.

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AT THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE, SOME PARTICIPANTS SUGGESTED THAT THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE DEVOTE MORE OF ITS RESOURCES TO THE SOCIAL SCIENCES, MULTIDISCIPLINARY INVESTIGATIONS, AND SUCH PROBLEMS AS TECHNOLOGY, RISK ASSESSMENT, AND SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS. THE COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE ADVANCED STUDY INSTITUTES (ASI) AND SPECIAL PANELS SHOULD CAPITALIZE ON

OPPORTUNITIES TO PURSUE RESEARCH IN THESE AREAS.

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(B) FOSTERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE IN THE LESS-ADVANCED NATO COUNTRIES.

CERTAIN PROGRAMS (FELLOWSHIPS, ASI, SPECIAL PANELS) COULD GIVE GREATER EMPHASIS TO ASSISTING THE SCIENCE-DEVELOPING ALLIES. THE COMMITTEE IS REQUESTED TO CONSIDER SEVERAL PROPOSALS TO DO SO.

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(C) CHANGING THE CRITERIA FOR SOME PROGRAMS.

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DISCUSSION OF FOLLOW-UP TO THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE PROVIDES THE COMMITTEE WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE CRITERIA OF SOME PROGRAMS (E.G., SENIOR SCIENTIST PROGRAM AND SOME PANELS) SHOULD BE ALTERED TO RESPOND MORE CLOSELY TO DIFFERENT CONDITIONS AND NEW CHALLENGES.

(D) BUDGETARY PROBLEMS.

IN RECENT YEARS, INFLATION AND INCREASED COSTS HAVE FORCED SOME PROGRAMS (FELLOWSHIPS, ASI, RESEARCH GRANTS) TO CONTRACT (FEWER ACTIVITIES, LOWER NUMBER OF SCIENTISTS INVOLVED, REDUCED FINANCIAL SUPPORT). THE COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO CONSIDER WHETHER IT SHOULD RECOMMEND REMEDIAL ACTION.

3. THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF SENT TO DR. STUYK, AND MEMBERS
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OF HIS SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOLLOW-UP TO THE ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE, ADVANCE COPIES OF AC/137-D/673. WE UNDERSTAND THAT DR. STUYK WILL USE IT AS A REFERENCE DOCUMENT AND WILL PROBABLY BASE MANY OF HIS RECOMMENDATIONS ON IT. (HE PLANS TO REVIEW HIS RECOMMENDATIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE BEFORE THE OCTOBER MEETING.) IN OUR VIEW, THE SUGGESTIONS MADE IN AC/137-D/673 PROVIDE A GOOD BASIS FOR THINKING ABOUT FUTURE NATO SCIENCE ACTIVITIES. IN PARTICULAR, THE DOCUMENT SPECIFICALLY NOTES THAT IN DEVELOPING PROPOSALS FOR POSSIBLE NEW ACTIVITIES, PRIMARY ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN TO ACTION-ORIENTED PROJECTS WHICH ARE BASED ON THE COMMITTEE'S TIME-PROVEN MECHANISMS. THUS, THE COMMENTS OF THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AT THE JUNE SCIENCE COMMITTEE MEETING (REF B) ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

4. THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ARE KEYED TO THE CATEGORIES LISTED IN PARAGRAPH 2:

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(A) EXPLORING NEW SCIENTIFIC QUESTIONS.

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--AS NOTED IN REFS C & D, AT THE COMMEMORATION CONFERENCE DR. FRANK PRESS SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMITTEE MIGHT WISH

TO BREAK NEW GROUND BY HOLDING A SYMPOSIUM ON WHAT THE WORLD OF TECHNOLOGY WILL BE LIKE IN TEN YEARS AND THE CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR SOCIETIES. THE OCTOBER MEETING WILL PROVIDE US WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO ELABORATE ON THIS SUGGESTION.

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--AT THE JUNE SCIENCE COMMITTEE MEETING, THE U.S. AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES WARNED AGAINST INVOLVING THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE IN SOCIAL AND OTHER ISSUES TOO BROAD TO BE ATTACKED EFFECTIVELY BY THE MECHANISMS AVAILABLE TO THE

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COMMITTEE; HOWEVER, OTHER REPRESENTATIVES WISHED NATO TO TAKE SOME INTERESTS IN SUCH QUESTIONS. WE BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THE BEST WAY TO RESOLVE THIS CONFLICT WOULD BE TO ALLOW AN ASI OR SPECIAL PANEL TO FOCUS ON A SPECIFIC TOPIC SUCH AS RISK ASSESSMENT OR SOCIAL INDICATORS; IN THIS WAY, RESEARCH IN THESE AREAS COULD BE PURSUED IN A LIMITED WAY.

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(B) FOSTERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIBNCE IN THE LESS-ADVANCED NATO COUNTRIES.

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IN OUR OPINION, THE OBJECTIVE OF FOSTERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE IN LESS-ADVANCED ALLIED NATIONS SHOULD BE VIGOROUSLY PURSUED, BOTH FOR ITS OWN SAKE AND FOR THE IMPACT IT WOULD HAVE ON INCREASED ALLIANCE COHESION.

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(C) CHANGING THE CRITERIA FOR SOME PROGRAMS.

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WE BELIEVE PROGRAM CRITERIA SHOULD BE CHANGED WHERE NECESSARY, ESPECIALLY TO STRESS THE AIM OF ASSISTING LESS-SCIENTIFICALLY ADVANCED ALLIES.

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(D) BUDGETARY PROBLEMS.

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IN RECENT YEARS, THE UNITED STATES HAS SHOWN ITS WILLINGNES
TO TACKLE THE COMMITTEE'S BUDGETARY PROBLEMS (REFS D, E &
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F). IN PREPARATION FOR THE OCTOBER MEETING, WE RECOMMEND
THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER HOW BEST WE CAN PURSUE OUR
GOAL OF EASING THE BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS ON THE SCIENCE
COMMITTEE IN FUTURE YEARS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE, FOR OCTOBER SCIENCE COMMITTE
MEETING, ON RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN AC/137-D/673 FOR FUTURE
NATO SCIENCE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES. GLITMAN

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